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To permit personal attendance at these meetings there will be issued to each holder of one or more shares of the capital stock of the Illinois Central Railroad Company as registered on the books of the company at the close of business on Friday, Aug. 1, 1902, and to stockholders of record on Friday, Sept. 19, 1902, a ticket enabling him, or her, to travel free over the company's lines from the station on the Illinois Central Railroad nearest to his or her registered address to Chicago and return, such ticket to be good for the journey to Chicago only during the four days immediately preceding, and the day of the meeting, and for the return journey from Chicago only on the day of the meeting and the four days immediately following, when properly countersigned and stamped during business hours—that is to say, between 9 a. m. and 5 p. m.—in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Mr. W. G. Bruen, in Chicago. Such ticket may be obtained by any holder of stock registered as above, on application, in writing, to the President of the company in Chicago. Each application must state the full name and address of the stockholder exactly as given in his or her certificate of stock, together with the number and date of such certificate. No more than one person will be carried free in respect to any one holding of stock as registered on the books of the company.

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A FOUR LEAF CLOVER.

One Man Convinced That It Is Anything But a Lucky Omen.

"Nobody can ever convince me that there is luck in finding a four-leaf clover," said a botanist to a friend after he had spent the day in the country, relates the Washington Star. "I started out early in the morning," he said, "and went in search of wild flowers. Failing in my efforts to find any varieties out of the ordinary the thought struck me that I might be successful if I could find a four-leaf clover. Certainly the change could not be for the worse, I thought, and I proceeded to investigate a patch of clover. My efforts were soon rewarded, and then I sallied forth, contentedly expecting I would be more successful in my search for flowers."

He explained that he had gone but a short distance, when he met a small boy, of whom he inquired where he could probably get the greatest variety of flowers.

"I know where you can find lots of 'em, mister," the little fellow said. "Come on and I'll take you to 'em."

"I started with my guide and after passing through valleys and over hills I found myself on the bank of the river near an old scow," said the enthusiastic botanist. "The boy told me we would have to cross the river, and just as I was about to enter the leaky craft a big black snake crawled between my feet and gave me a short attack of nervous prostration."

He told of entering the scow and starting across the river. In a short time an island was reached.

"That was not our destination," the botanist said, "but the boat had half filled with water and I insisted upon landing. There I was on the island, with deep water between there and the shore, and no relief except the small boy and the leaky boat."

"And what happened next?" his friend ventured.

"What happened next?" he repeated. "I put my foot on another snake and nearly dropped dead, that's all."

He explained that he afterward fell in the mud, slipped in the river and returned home without finding any new specimens.

"And," he concluded, "people say there is luck in finding four-leaf clover."

REVIVAL OF CROQUET.

The Game Is Again Popular, at Least It Is in England.

It is not often that a game when once it has entirely lost its vogue enjoys such a revival of popularity as has been the case with croquet. A few years ago the rising generation looked with the utmost scorn on what they regarded as a silly pastime associated with the crinolines and side-whiskers of the mid-Victorian period. In the garden sheds or lumber lofts of country houses might be found some rusty wire-hoops and broken mallets which were relics of some post-Pleistocene age. Yet to-day the game that was thought obsolete ten years ago is flourishing like the new shoots of a green bay tree. It has, of course, been improved by being made more scientific, and the Croquet association, which has taken it in hand, can boast of more than a thousand members. Tournaments take place in all parts of the United Kingdom, and wherever the English do congregate on the continent, while iron hoops once more adorn the lawns of country houses that were for years surrendered unconditionally to the lawn-tennis net. In the neighborhood of London, croquet is all the go at Sheen House club—the headquarters of the association—at Ranelagh, Hurlingham, and other fashionable resorts. The croquet championships will soon rival cricket and golf fixtures in popularity, and as the game has caught on at the 'varsities, it will, we suppose, take its place among the hotly-contested events in the annual battle of the blues. Mr. Kipling will have to find a scornful phrase to describe the croquet players, for as ladies are among its most enthusiastic votaries, "flanneled fools" will not do.—St. James Gazette.

Coincidence at a Funeral.

The quiet Derbyshire village of Mellor, England, has just been the scene of a unique occurrence. On the same day there were buried two men of the same name, at the same place, and about the same time. Neither was known by the relative of the other, and yet both came originally from the same place, viz., Mellor, in Derbyshire. Both were named John Higginbottom, but one came from Gee Cross and the other from Werneth Low, which are close together. And when one party went to order tea at the Devonshire Arms at Mellor, the landlord said the tea had already been ordered. It was for the first party, of course.

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